Efficiency after creation of new zones

462. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the improvements in the safety and efficiency of operation of railways after creation of the five new zones;

(b) whether there has been any improvements in the railway earning after the new zones coming into effect in April 2003, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE.MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) With the creation of smaller administrative railway zones, it has been possible to achieve an all round improvement in the functioning of the railways due to better supervision and monitoring. During the period April-November, 2003, while the total number of consequential train accidents remained at the same level, there has been a significant improvement in the following areas of safety performance of the Indian Railways. During the period, there were 3 train collisions as against 10 train collisions during the corresponding period of the previous year. Similarly, the accidents at manned level crossing gates have dropped from 9 to 6 and the train derailments from 151 to 148.

During the period April-October' 2003, the originating freight loading was 311.29 million tonnes as compared to 290.88 tonnes during the corresponding period of the previous year, recording an increase of 20.41 million tonnes implying a growth of 7%. Similarly, the total transport output in terms of Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs) increased from 202.05 Billion NTKMs to 212.60 Billion NTKMs, which is an increase of 10.55 Billion NTKMs, indicating an overall growth of 5.22%. During the current year, the punctuality performance of passenger carrying trains in most of the new railway zones is of the order of 95% to 98%.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the period April-September' 2003, the overall earnings of the Railways have increased to Rs. 20,414.78 crore as compared to Rs. 19,825.80 crore during the corresponding period \of previous year, which is an increase of Rs. 588.98 crore during the first half of the current year.